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SOURCE Helsingin Sanomat.FINNISH WAR COLLEGE GRANTS DIPLOMAS TO 74 OFFICERS

The classes of the Finnish War College in the technical warfare division incorporating courses in weapons, ammunition, and communication which began in January 1950, and in the general division incorporating land, sea, and aerial warfare courses which began in 1951, were concluded on 15 January 1953.

The director of the War College, Maj Gen I. Karhu, distributed diplomas to the 74 officer graduates from the college, the highest school of military science in Finland. Their study of 3 years in the technical military fields and 2 years in the general courses is the equivalent of the matriculation examination, and after their reserve duty, they will have had a total of 5-6 years' training in military schools for the regular officers of the Defense Establishment.

After congratulating the graduates, General Karhu welcomed the new officer students of the general division who, after passing preliminary oral and written elimination examinations lasting a week, will begin their studies. He also wished continuing success to the second-year students of the technical warfare division in their studies.

Guests at the main celebration at the War College included: General of Infantry Aarne Sihvo, Commander of the National Defense Forces; General of Infantry A. E. Heinrichs, chairman of the Military Science Society; Erik Lönnroth, president of the University of Helsinki; foreign military attaches stationed in Helsinki; A. Wara, chairman of the Vaka Foundation; representatives of the Soldiers' Home Society; and high-ranking Finnish officers.

General Karhu reviewed the accomplishments of the courses which ended on 15 January 1953. He pointed out that 35 percent of the graduates received scholastic ratings of "with distinction" and 74 percent of either "acceptable" or "excellent" on their diploma projects. In regard to the projects, General Karhu noted the considerable increase in military science research important to the defense forces. He also stressed the value of the research conducted by instructors at the War College, but said that, because of inadequate funds, the results of the research cannot be published.

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Concerning the student body of the War College, General Karhu pointed out that of the current students, the number of officers with experience in command and staff duty during the last war is already quite limited. Consequently, he said, an even greater responsibility in instruction falls on the War College faculty.

General Karhu stated that the nature and importance of technical factors will be stressed even more than formerly in the curriculum of the course now beginning in the general division. He noted that occurrences of illness requiring extended hospitalization among both students and faculty have been relatively numerous, and surmised that these resulted from the strains caused by the war and the unfavorable economic and psychological conditions following the war. General Karhu considered that the accomplishment of the course changes will mean that the War College will be even more dependent on the teaching force which the college receives from the regular service, since the number of regular teachers has decreased.

Following this, Lt Col P. Toivanen, instructor in general staff problems, posed this question to Capt Niilo Riuttala, who graduated at the head of his class in the general department: "How can intelligence operations be improved in the field without reorganization of units?"

Captain Riuttala answered that the intelligence reconnaissance function should be carried out by each of the branches of service, and that the bits of information thus gathered should be transmitted to a common intelligence center for coordination and analysis; from this center the resulting intelligence could be speedily dispatched in reliable form to the operational command. He stated that the pace of modern warfare requires greater reliance on such devices as radar, infrared equipment, television, and facsimile transmitters in the gathering of information.

Col B. Heimolanen, supervisor of the technical warfare division of the War College, asked Maj Y. Keinonen, leading graduate of that division: "What consideration should be given to the possibilities of using radioactive materials as modern combat tactical weapons?" Major Keinonen replied that the production possibilities of radioactive materials and their physiological effects are so great that their use as tactical weapons against personnel is conceivable. The use is limited, however, by many factors, he said, and the significance of radiation materials can be estimated to be at present just as great as that of gas warfare before the beginning of World War II.

After this, the director of the War College distributed a number of monetary awards to the graduates. General Karhu stated that 355,000 marks from the War College's own award fund were used for this purpose. Of this amount, 40,000 marks was from the Baumgartner fund and the remaining from Otava funds. In addition, the Vaka Foundation had donated 25,000 marks and the Communications Foundation 15,000 marks.

Monetary awards were granted to the following student officers: Captain Riuttala, 40,000 marks for excellence in his courses; Maj Y. Keinonen, Capt K. B. Sarmanne, and Capt P. K. Myyrylainen, 35,000 marks each for meritorious achievement; Captain Myyrylainen also received the Communications Foundation award of 15,000 marks; Captains T. P. Tuominen and K. O. Miettinen, 30,000 marks each; Capt Y. E. Pohjanvirta, 25,000 marks; and Capt L. G. Heinrichs, 25,000 marks from the Vaka Foundation.

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Praise-worthy diploma projects were recognized by awards of 10,000 marks each to Captains E. Porttila, E. J. Reinikainen, E. T. Koivisto, V. J. Torvinen, O. A. J. Saari, K. K. Huuhka, V. A. Väisänen, and A. A. E. Huhtala, and of 5,000 marks each to Captains E. P. Multanen, M. Haksalo, F. Y. A. Jokisalo, G-E. Strömberg, H. J. Erjola, A. B. Konno, and A. I. Rummukainen and Lieutenants (Naval) L. V. Pauhakari and S. O. A. Wikberg.

Capt H. M. Nykänen was elected custodian for 1953 - 1954 of the gold humidor belonging to the "Gray" Fund, as the outstanding flight officer.

Capt P. H. R. Siilasvuo received a deluxe edition of a book as a presentation from the military attaché of France, Lieutenant Colonel Ardent, for the greatest progress made in the French language.

In addition to the awards, the college for the first time presented plaques for physical fitness to the students who maintained high standards in physical fitness during the term. In addition to achievement of distinction in skiing, cross-country orientation, swimming, and rifle marksmanship, awarding of the plaques requires a satisfactory scholastic rating. Recipients of the physical fitness awards were: of the student officers, Captains E. J. Erjola and O. A. J. Saari, Maj Y. Keinonen, Captains L. Rantanen, G-E. Strömberg, P. J. Junttila, P. K. Myrskylainen, T. F. Tuominen, J. J. Paajala, and M. A. Riuttala; and of the instructors, Maj A. A. Pönkänen and Capt H. V. Seppälä.

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